

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



April 3, 2016

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

UNDERSTANDING GRACE #2 (GRACE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT)

John 1:17 says, "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." This does not mean that there was no grace in the Old Testament. John said "grace and truth." I would just as soon conclude that there was no truth in the Old Testament as to conclude there was no grace there. In the Old Testament, the truth of the Gospel had not been fully revealed and the riches of the grace of Christ had not been made known (Eph. 3:1-11).

The Law of Moses was given by grace, but grace itself was not the immediate purpose of the law of Moses. The Law of Moses was not a plan of salvation. It was given to keep Israel separate from the nations about them until Christ came. It was to prepare the way for Him. Christ said in John 5:39, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." Salvation comes through Christ. It was never intended to come to man through the Law of Moses without Christ, but that is far different than saying there was no grace in the Old Testament.

God revealed himself to Moses as "merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression..." (Exodus 34:6-7). David praised God singing, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever." (Psalm 103:8-9).

Those who say there was no grace in the Old Testament have not read very far, because Genesis 6:8 says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." The salvation of Noah is a good study about how God saves man by grace. Second Peter 2:5 says that God "did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly..."

First: Noah was saved by **GRACE**. Genesis 6:8 is the first mention of "grace" in the Bible. Remember from the previous article (March 6 bulletin) that the basic meaning of "grace" is "favor." God was angry with the world, but he looked favorably upon Noah, and by God's grace (favor) Noah was saved, but Noah was not saved by "grace only."

Second: Noah was saved by **FAITH**. Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." Notice, Noah was "divinely warned of things not yet seen." This helps us understand what faith is. Second Corinthians 5:7 says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Sometimes we say, "seeing is believing," but faith is not believing what we see; it is believing what we hear, as affirmed by Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Noah heard from God, and believing, he was saved by faith, but not by "faith only."

Third: Noah was saved by **OBEDIENCE**. Genesis 6:22, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." Genesis 7:5, "And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him." Genesis 7:9, "two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male

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"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (John 3:18-21)



Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

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and female, as God had commanded Noah.” Genesis 7:16, “So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.” Hebrews 11:7, “By faith Noah...prepared an ark for the saving of his household...” In preparing the ark, he did as he was instructed. Second Corinthians 5:7 says “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” The walking part is the obedience part. The faith that saves is the faith that obeys. Though Noah was saved by obedience, it was not by “obedience only.”

Fourth: Noah was saved by **WATER**. First Peter 3:20 says, “the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.” Noah was not saved physically by the water, he was saved spiritually. There was a physical salvation and a spiritual salvation. Physically, he was saved from the water by the ark, but spiritually, he was saved from a world of sin by the water. The water separated them from the sin of the world. The old sinful world was immersed in water, washing the sin away, so that when Noah stepped out of the ark he stepped into a world that had been cleansed of sin. He was saved by water, but not by “water only.”

Fifth: Noah was saved by the **ARK**. Hebrews 11:7 says, “Noah... prepared an ark for the saving of his household.” Genesis 7:15,23, “And they went into the ark to Noah...Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.” It was necessary that they go into the ark, and to remain in the ark in order to be saved. All that were in the ark were saved. All that were out of the ark were lost. He was saved by the ark, but not by the “ark alone.”

Now, if we can understand how grace worked in the salvation of Noah, we can more easily appreciate how grace works in our salvation today.

First: We are saved by **GRACE**. Acts 15:11, “through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved...” Romans 3:24, “being justified freely by His grace...” Ephesians 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved...” We are saved by grace, but not by “grace only.”

Second: We are saved by **FAITH**. Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith...” Acts 16:31, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...” Romans 5:1-2, “Therefore, having been justified by faith...through whom also we have access by faith into this grace...” Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him...” So, we are saved by faith, but not by “faith only.”

Third: We are saved by **OBEDIENCE**. Hebrews 11:6, “He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 5:9, “He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,” In Ro-

mans 1:5 Paul wrote about, “obedience of the faith,” and in Romans 6:16-18 he said, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” Made free from sin when? “...Then.” When? “...When you obeyed.” We are saved by obedience, but not by “obedience only.”

Fourth: We are saved by **WATER**. John 3:5, “unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” Ephesians 5:25-26, “...gave Himself up for her that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.” Titus 3:5, “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 22:16, “Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” First Peter 3:20-21, “the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism.” It is when we are baptized that God separates us from sin. We are saved by water, but not by “water only.”

Fifth: We are saved by the **CHURCH**. Men may cry, “The church does not save you!” And, there is a sense in which they are correct, because the saving power is not in the church itself, but those who so cry should also say, “The saved are added to the church” (Acts 2:47). Christ died for our salvation, but Christ also died for the church. Acts 20:28, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” Ephesians 5:25, “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” Ephesians 1:22-23, “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 5:23, “He is the Savior of the body” which is the church. We are saved by the church, but not by the “church only.”

As it was necessary that Noah and his family go “into” and remain “in” the ark in order to be saved, so also it is necessary to be “in” and to “stay in” the church. All that were in the ark were saved. All that were out of the ark were lost. All that are not in the church are lost, and not just any church. One could just as soon say “be saved in the ark of your choice” as to say “be saved in the church of your choice.” They could have built themselves a party barge, but they would not have been saved. God gave specific instructions for the building of the ark; and, Noah built it just that way.

The New Testament describes the church of Christ, just that church,

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

April 3 Matthew 7-9

April 4 Matthew 10-12

April 5 Matthew 13-15

April 6 Matthew 16-18

April 7 Matthew 19-21

April 8 Matthew 22-24

April 9 Matthew 25-26

April 10 Matthew 27-28

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **31 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ There will be no 1st Sunday lunch today.
- ◆ We had a great Gospel Meeting this past week. Our thanks to Kevin and to each member and visitor who contributed to its success. We had around 50 for the singing Saturday evening, 62 Monday evening, and 68 Tuesday evening, in addition to the numbers below.
- ◆ There is a Gospel Meeting this week at Windmill Road (Weatherford) with various speakers.
- ◆ There will be ongoing construction/remodeling at the building over the next few weeks. Please be patient, as we may be inconvenienced at times during this process.

Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ April 3-6—Gospel Meeting @ Windmill Road [Weatherford] (Various Speakers)
- ◆ April 17-21—Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main [San Angelo] (Michael Light)
- ◆ April 21-23—Academy of Christian Studies (ACS) Class: “*God Centered Preaching and Teaching*” (Mike Vestal)—Dripping Springs, TX
- ◆ April 22-24—Lovely Lectures
- ◆ April 24-27—Gospel Meeting @ Gordon (Jessie Dickison)
- ◆ April 30—Ladies Day @ Comanche (flyer on board)
- ◆ April 30-May 5—Focal Point—San Marcos, TX.
- ◆ May 1-4—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton (Rick Popejoy)
- ◆ May 14—Men’s Day @ Hamlin (Mike Bonner)
- ◆ May 21—Ladies Day @ Hamlin (Evelyn Bonner)
- ◆ June 26-30—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 17-22—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 5-7—Discipleship University—Dripping Springs, TX.
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.
- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat [Brady]
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: “*The Bible and Archaeology*” (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

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not something like it, nor something close to it, but “the church of Christ,” and we must be members of the New Testament church that is established according to the New Testament pattern. That means we are to **teach the same things, organize by the same plan, use the same names, worship the same way, and be baptized just as they were, and for the same reason.** Acts 2:38, “*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...*” Then, by grace, God adds us to his church (Acts 2:41,47).

There is a warning. Second Peter 3:5-7, “*For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*”

There was grace in the Old Testament, and doom to those who refused it.

Bill Boyd (Seek The Old Paths, Vol. 27, Num. 2 [Feb. 2016], pp. 9,13)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

April Birthdays: Vickie Tallent (4), Lasha Dennis (6), Sarah Rudloff (6), Ginger King (8), Kristi Maninger (9), Darlene Smith (10), Caroline Dennis (30).

April Anniversaries: John & Tina Barnum (8).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Mar. 20, 2016	Mar. 27, 2016
Bible Class	50	52
AM Worship	70	67
PM Worship	51	53
Wednesday PM	46	52
Contribution	\$2,664	\$2,347

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

This Week: 4/3/16		Next Week: 4/10/16		April 2016 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: M&P Bannister / Greer Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group May 2016 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Joe Dennis Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Maninger Family	Fuller / Stultz		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, Don Smith Allen Griffith, Allen Bland	James Fuller*, Ryan Rudloff Randy Huckaby, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 6 Prayer Night	April 13 Tom Wilcox	April 20 Don Smith	April 27 Joe Dennis

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of April 3, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 24:10ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
 Wednesday Class Authority & Inspiration of the Bible

<p><u>The Man of God as seen in Philippians – Part 1 (Chapters 1-2)</u></p> <p>I. The Man of God...Is Savior-Centered (1:1-26).</p> <p>A. By Praying Always (1:1-10).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The man of God has a basis for prayer that concerns him with his fellow saints (1:3-4). That which inspired the close fellowship between the man of God and his brethren was the gospel (1:5). The praise for the work goes neither to the saints nor to Paul, but to God (1:6). Men of God hold their fellow saints in their hearts and consider brethren to be the "inner-circle" or exclusive family of Christ (1:7). <p>B. By Producing Fruit (1:11).</p> <p>C. By Preaching Good News (1:12-18).</p> <p>D. By Practicing Optimism (1:19-26).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The man of God believes that despite life's dark turns, all will "turn out" (1:19) to his being delivered. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Therefore, optimism rules his thoughts and results in never being "ashamed." Paul was so free from physical fear that not only could he serve Christ in spirit, but also in body (1:20). Robertson comments that "It is often harder to make Christ great in the body than in the spirit." Optimism for the man of God results from knowing the choices: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One can live and serve Christ. One can die and live with Christ (1:20-26). <p>II. The Man of God...Is Self-Emptying (1:27-2:30).</p> <p>A. By Evidencing Humility (1:27-2:4).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Through Effort & Example (1:27-30). Through Esteeming Others (2:1-4). <p>B. By Expressing Christ-Likeness (2:5-30).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (2:5). Paul lists six things that Jesus did in order to empty himself and to carry out the will of God. Faithful brethren have been able to emulate the mind-set of Christ, at least as far as humanly possible. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two are mentioned – Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:12-30). 	<p><u>Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning the Holy Spirit</u></p> <p>I. Some teach that the Holy Spirit is not a person.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks and guides – John 16:13; 1 Timothy 4:1. Teaches – John 14:26. Helps (Comforts) – John 14:16. Reproves and convicts – John 16:7-8. Testifies – John 15:26. Forbids – Acts 16:6-7. Reveals and searches – 1 Corinthians 2:11. Has knowledge - 1 Corinthians 2:11. Has goodness – Nehemiah 9:20. Has a will – 1 Corinthians 12:11. Can be grieved – Ephesians 4:30. Can be insulted – Hebrews 10:29. Can be blasphemed – Matthew 12:31. Can be lied to – Acts 5:3-4. Can be resisted – Acts 7:51-52. <p>II. Some teach it takes a direct operation of the Holy Spirit to be saved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates the purpose and mission of the apostles – John 16:13. Eliminates the gospel – Romans 1:16. Eliminates the work of the church – Eph. 3:10-11; 1 Timothy 3:15. Eliminates the work of evangelists – 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Cor. 1:21. Eliminates the New Testament – Hebrews 9:16-17; Matthew 26:28. Eliminates obedience – Hebrews 5:8-9. Eliminates true Biblical faith – Romans 10:17. Denies the all-sufficiency of the word – 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 1:23. Rejects God's method of conversion – John 6:44-45. Makes God a respecter of persons – Romans 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9. Contradicts Christ – Matthew 7:21-27. Makes the word of God a dead letter – Hebrews 4:12. No light to the heathen without the Word – 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. Makes Satan's word more powerful than God's word. Creates confusion and division – 1 Corinthians 1:10. If true, how can one be judged by the word? – John 12:48 No Bible authority for the theory – Colossians 3:17. <p>How is one led by the Holy Spirit? By submitting to the Word of God.</p>
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